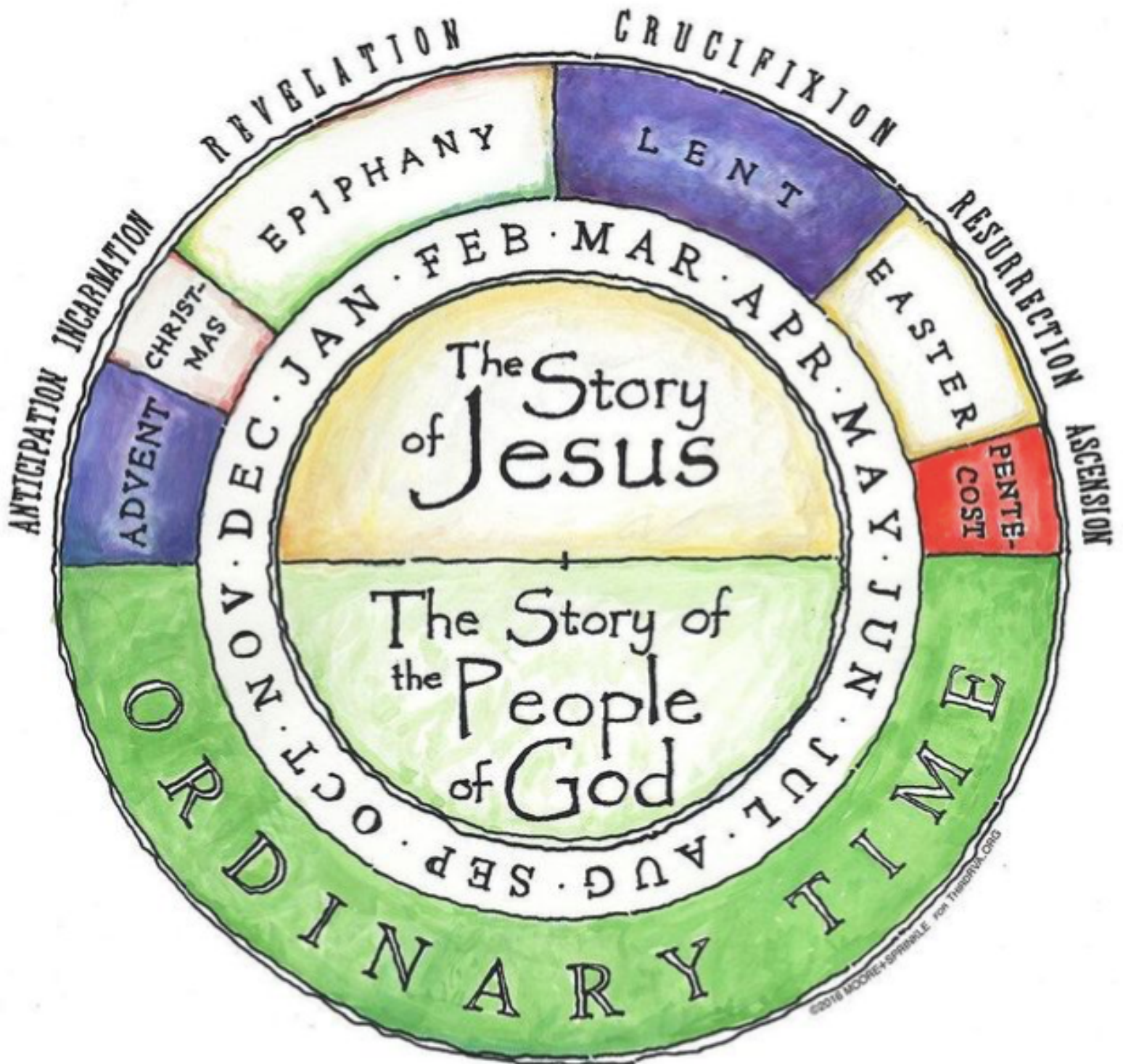


Colors + Seasons of The Church Year

Did you know there are special names and colors for each part of the church year? This is why the paraments (the cloths on the altar and pulpit) and the stoles (the long piece of fabric that pastors wear around their necks, kind of like a scarf) are all the same color and will change based on the time of year or holiday we are celebrating. Use the picture below and the notes on the back of this sheet to help you remember what season we are in and what colors to look for in church throughout the year.



Colors + Seasons of The Church Year



ADVENT: This is the first season of the church year, and it begins four Sundays before Christmas. The **blue** or **purple** for Advent reminds us that we are waiting for royalty – Christ our King. It also reminds us that Advent is a time to prepare to receive our King by looking at ways in which our lives are filled with darkness and sin, while we anticipate the return of God's loving presence through Jesus. One Sunday of Advent the church changes to a light pink color called **rose** to celebrate the joy and excitement of knowing Jesus is coming soon!



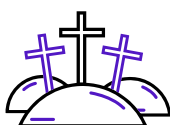
CHRISTMAS: Did you know that Christmas actually lasts 12 days, starting on December 26th? We use the colors **yellow, gold** or **white** for Christmas to remind us of light, because Jesus, the True Light, has entered the world! When you see white or gold in church, you know that we are going to be celebrating something really special.



EPIPHANY: This season starts on January 6, the first day after Christmas time ends. Epiphany celebrates when the Three Kings, or Three Wise Men, met baby Jesus for the first time and learned that He came to save ALL people! **Green** is a color of growth, & Epiphany reminds us that as we meet Jesus in the Bible, we grow in faith so we can share His love with ALL people.



LENT: **Purple** for Lent, like in Advent, is the color of repenting when we reflect on the ways we are sinful. Lent starts 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays) with a special day called Ash Wednesday, where we remember that God created us from dust, or ashes, & someday we will become dust again. It reminds us that we are all sinful humans. On Ash Wednesday, as well as Good Friday -- the day that Jesus was crucified and died -- the paraments sometimes become **black**, or will be taken away completely, as these are the darkest & saddest days of the church year. However, we call Good Friday "good" since we know that Jesus's death was good for *us*, because He died to take away our sins! But, Jesus's story doesn't stop there; next comes...



EASTER: Jesus is risen! **White** & **gold** for Easter are colors of celebration, just like at Christmas. Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.



PENTECOST: On the 50th day after Easter, our colors change to **red** for the day of Pentecost. This church holiday celebrates when the Holy Spirit came to be with the disciples after Jesus' resurrection, and it reminds us that God has given us the Holy Spirit too. Red is a color of love and passion like fire, & just as the Spirit appeared like a fire to the disciples, He makes us feel "on fire" for Jesus and gets us excited to go out and tell the world about His great love!



ORDINARY TIME: The time after the day of Pentecost is the longest season of the church year, lasting all the way 'til Advent begins again. **Green** once again reminds us that it's time to grow: we spend much of this time learning about God through the life and work of Jesus and all His disciples. Learning about God grows & strengthens our faith to make us disciples of Jesus too!



Keep an eye out to see when the colors change in church, and see if you can spot any special pictures or symbols on the cloths that help tell the story of the season or holiday as well!